



# Department Updates

October 2017

## Clerk of Court

### Sharon Millermon Clerk of Court

1,499 juror qualification questionnaires were mailed on September 19<sup>th</sup> to prospective Barron County residents to fulfill the 2018 jury needs.

Along with the necessity of being a Barron County resident, the following requirements must also be met:

- \* A citizen of the United States
- \* At least 18 years of age
- \* You must understand the English language
- \* You must not have been summoned for jury service in the past 4 years
- \* You must not be currently serving a felony sentence. Often those people convicted of a felony believe they cannot ever serve on a jury. Once all the

conditions of their sentence have been completed, the individual is eligible.

To date, 812 people have returned their questionnaires by completing a paper form and returned via mail, 406 people have returned their questionnaires electronically and 281 are left to respond. Answers to questions from the returned paper questionnaires need to be entered into the jury software. It is very time consuming. Hence, questionnaires returned electronically are very much appreciated and a great time saver as no data needs to be entered.

Each and every one of the questionnaires sent are followed up on. Soon I will send a second follow-up questionnaire, usually about 225, indicating a subsequent notice will include a date and time to

appear before Jury Judge Boyle to explain why they have failed to complete their questionnaire. Approximately 90 of the 225 will not respond to the third request. Normally 50 warrants will be issued with the purge condition to complete the juror qualification questionnaire. The Sheriff Department is diligent in serving the warrants, but approximately one-half of them will not be able to be found for service.

If you received a juror qualification questionnaire, I look forward to working with you directly in 2018.

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## Circuit Court

### Judge James Babler

The entire State of Wisconsin now has mandatory electronic filing (E-Filing). Our neighbor, Burnett County, was the last county in the State to become a mandatory E-Filing county in October. Barron County was the 6<sup>th</sup> county in the State to go mandatory E-Filing in August 2016. In addition, Barron County voluntarily went to E-Filing for Probate cases this past July.

The mandatory E-Filing rule requires that all civil, family, criminal and traffic cases be filed electronically by attorneys. However, the rule still allows pro se (self-represented litigants) to file by paper which is then

scanned into the electronic file. Barron County has been entirely paperless, meaning there are no paper files, since January 1, 2016. While change is always a challenge, we have found that the transition from paper to electronic files and electronic filing to be a real positive for the Court system and litigants. We've seen an actual reduction in postage costs due to the fact that all Orders and correspondence are transmitted electronically to attorneys from the Court. In addition we're saving ongoing storage space and costs because there are no longer the paper files to keep according to required retention periods.

On a related note, we are now providing text message re-

mindings in all juvenile, criminal, and traffic cases. The court's case management system (CCAP) automatically provides a text message reminder of court appearances 48 hours before the scheduled hearing. This is voluntary on the part of the litigants who are asked in court if they wish to receive this extra reminder for their scheduled court dates. All three judges have seen very positive responses from litigants wanting to have the text message reminders. It is another example how the Court system in Barron County endeavors to provide good customer service.

## Medical Examiner

### 2017 3rd Quarter Report With 2016 and 2015 Comparables

Submitted By Mary A. Ricci, Medical Examiner

	3rd Quarter Cases									Cremation Investigations	Death Certificates
		Male	Female	Natural	Suicide	Homicide	Accident	Pending	Autopsy		
2017	115	68	47	102	4	0	5	1	Clinical = 3 Forensic = 3	89	39
2016	100	58	42	91	0	0	8	1	Clinical = 1 Forensic = 3	67	23
2015	89	43	46	83	0	0	6	0	Clinical = 2	64	23